

# **Caltrans Native American Liaison Branch (NALB)**

By Bennie Lee

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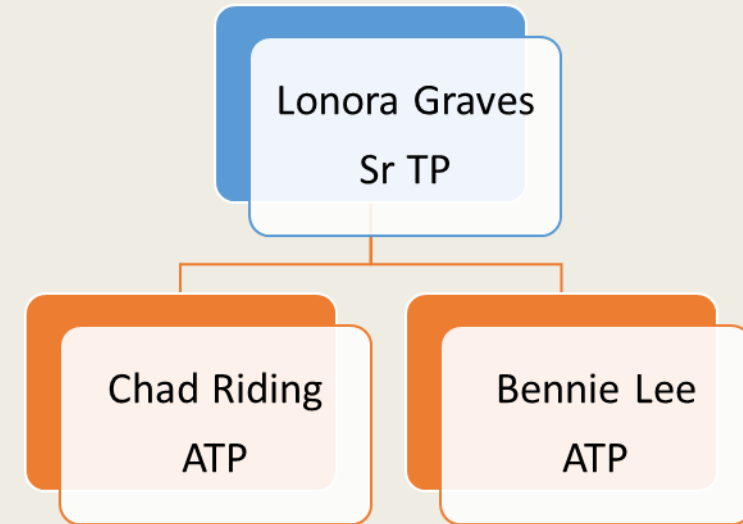
# California Federally Recognized Tribes

- California has the largest population and 109 Federally Recognized Tribes
- Over 60 Non-Federally Recognized Tribes
- Tribes exist statewide
- Tribes are sovereign\*



# Native American Liaison Branch Mission

- Provides Caltrans and the tribes the tools, resources, and connections needed to meaningfully consult with each other and to collaborate on transportation opportunities and issues of importance to Native Americans
- Facilitates the inclusion of tribal transportation needs in statewide planning, programming and delivery process
- Makes sure statutes, regulations, and directives regarding working with tribes and tribal communities are followed
- Works collectively towards equitable, mutually beneficial solutions to transportation challenges in California.



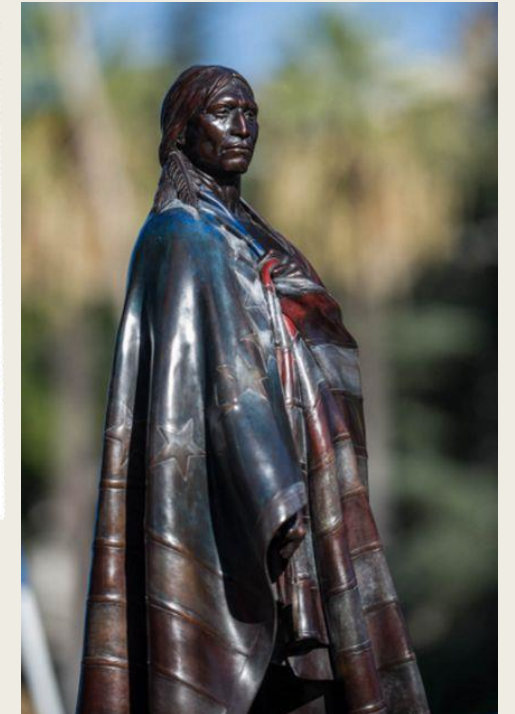
# District Native American Liaisons (DNAL's)

- Knows the specific needs of the Tribe(s):
  - *geographical attributes*
  - *sacred lands*
  - *traditional ceremonies*
  - *and transportation issues/challenges*
- Establishes and maintains government-to-government relationships
- Understands the Tribes concerns and shares them internally
- Coordinate with the Tribes and MPO/RTPA's in their District regularly
- Assists Tribes with understanding Caltrans policies and the way we program and deliver projects
- Assists with developing Caltrans Tribal policies, processes, and guidance
- Announces funding opportunities' for which Tribe are eligible applicants



# Native American Advisory Committee (NAAC)

- Provides advice to the Director about important Tribal transportation needs
- Tribal Representation
- Geographically Diverse Representation



# Tribal Engagement, Outreach, and Consultation

As Statewide Modal Transportation Planning Documents are updated Tribes should be incorporated at the earliest stages of development (prior to the draft). Outreach and consultation are **NOT** the same.

- Outreach is the beginning of the tribal engagement process,
  - *which includes;*
    - Listening sessions,
    - Public outreach
    - Tribal specific engagement





# Tribal Engagement, Outreach, and Consultation (cont'd)

- Consultation is a formal process
  - *is an ongoing process*
  - *is NOT an single event*
  - *is a two-way discussion between Tribal Leaders and Caltrans Executive Decision makers*
- A Good Faith Effort needs to made
- Consultation helps build, strengthen, and maintain government-to-government relationships

# Current Activities

- Serving as staff for the Native American Advisory Committee
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter NAAC Meeting, June 14, 2017
- Facilitating tribal engagement and consultation as required by law and policy
  - *Caltrans DP-19, Working with Native Americans*
  - *Governor Brown's Executive Order B-10-11*
  - *CalSTA Tribal Consultation Policy*
  - *23 USC §134 and 23 USC §135*

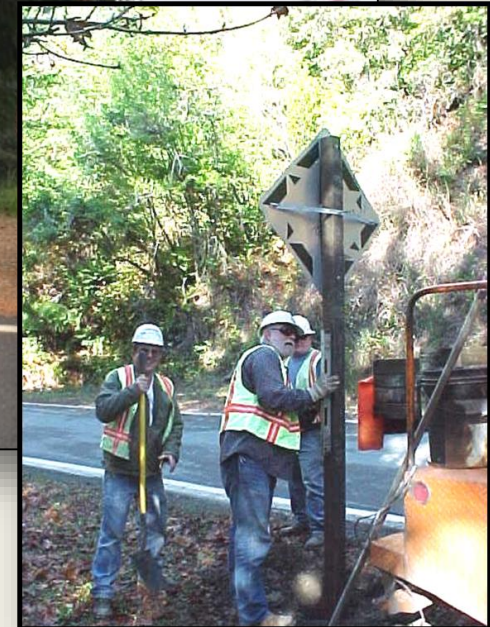


Color Guard and Flag Procession at 2013 Native American Day



# Current Activities (Continued)

- Advising and providing technical assistance to Caltrans staff
  - *Tribal engagement on Statewide modal plans*
  - *Contracting and entering into agreements with Tribes*
  - *CT Committees: CTP 2040, ATP, FAST Act Implementation, safety target setting, etc.*
- Providing technical assistance to Tribes
  - *Statewide Tribal Safety Assessments*
  - *Every Day Counts*



# Current Activities (Continued)

- Overseeing the Caltrans TERO Policy (DD-74-R2)
  - Workgroup meetings and internal coordination on implementation issues
- Developing tools for Caltrans staff, tribes, and stakeholders on working with tribal communities
  - *Transportation Guide for Native Americans*
  - *About Caltrans for Tribes*
  - *Tribal Consultation Resources*



# Native American Resources

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) - <https://www.bia.gov/>
- National Indian Justice Center (NIJC) - <http://www.nijc.org/>
- California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) - <http://nahc.ca.gov/>
- Indian Health Services (IHS) - <https://www.ihs.gov/>
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) - <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/>
- U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) - <https://www.doi.gov/>
- Administration for Native Americans (ANA) - <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ana>



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## **WEBSITE:**

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/transplanning/osp/nalb.html>